

CLAIMS:

- 1 1. A network addressable device in a communications network for
2 printing a document for a network user, comprising:
3 (a) a global printer array linked with the communications network;
4 and
5 (b) an assessor linked with the global printer array and the network
6 user, the assessor implementing a computer program code for
7 selecting a localized printer from the global printer array.
- 1 2. The network addressable device according to claim 1 wherein the
2 assessor receives network user parameters from the network user
3 through the communications network.
- 1 3. The network addressable device according to claim 1 wherein the
2 assessor establishes a localized zone of printer candidates, the
3 localized printer selected from the localized zone.
- 1 4. The network addressable device according to claim 1 wherein the
2 network addressable device further includes a repository for storing
3 the information used for printing.
- 1 5. In a computer system, computer program code on computer readable
2 media for printing a document for a network user, the computer
3 program code comprising:
4 (a) a first computer program code for receiving network user
5 parameters via a network addressable device;
6 (b) a second computer program code for linking the network
7 addressable device with a global printer array;
8 (c) a third computer program code for selecting a localized printer
9 from the global printer array;

- 10 (d) a fourth computer program code for determining the availability
11 of the localized printer with respect to the network user
12 parameters; and
13 (e) a fifth computer program code for spooling the localized printer.
- 1 6. The computer program code according to claim 5 wherein the third
2 computer program code includes:
3 (a) a computer program code for establishing a localized zone of
4 printer candidates; and
5 (b) a computer program code for designating the printer candidate
6 at a minimum distance from the localized zone to the network
7 user as the localized printer.
- 1 7. The computer program code according to claim 5 wherein the fourth
2 computer program code includes a computer program code for
3 determining whether the localized printer satisfies printer parameters
4 of the network user.
- 1 8. The computer program code according to claim 5 wherein the fourth
2 computer program code further includes a computer program code for
3 determining cost expectations of the network user.
- 1 9. The computer program code according to claim 5 wherein the fourth
2 computer program code further includes a computer program code for
3 determining time expectations of the network user.
- 1 10. The computer program code according to claim 5 wherein the fifth
2 computer program code includes a computer program code for
3 displaying the status of the localized printer.
- 1 11. In a communications network environment, a method for printing a
2 document for a network user, comprising the steps of:

- 3 (a) receiving network user parameters via a network addressable
4 device;
5 (b) selecting a localized printer from a global printer array of the
6 network addressable device with respect to the network user
7 parameters;
8 (c) determining availability of the selected localized printer; and
9 (d) engaging the localized printer.

1 12. The method according to claim 11 wherein the step of receiving
2 network user parameters includes the step of receiving network user
3 parameters from an Internet communications network.

1 13. The method according to claim 12 wherein the step of receiving
2 network user parameters includes the step of receiving network user
3 parameters from a browser.

1 14. The method according to claim 11 wherein the step of receiving
2 network user parameters includes the step of receiving network user
3 parameters from an intranet communications network.

1 15. The method according to claim 11 wherein the step of selecting a
2 localized printer includes the steps of:
3 (a) establishing a localized zone of printer candidates; and
4 (b) designating a printer candidate with a minimum distance from
5 the localized zone to the network user as the localized printer.

1 16. The method according to claim 11 wherein the step of selecting a
2 localized printer includes the step of determining whether the localized
3 printer satisfies printer parameters of the network user.

1 17. The method according to claim 16 further comprising the step of
2 displaying status of the localized printer.

1 18. The method according to claim 11 wherein the step of selecting a
2 localized printer includes the step of determining time expectations
3 associated with the localized printer.

1 19. The method according to claim 11 wherein the step of selecting a
2 localized printer includes the step of determining costs associated
3 with the localized printer.

1 20. The method according to claim 11 wherein step of selecting a
2 localized printer includes the step of asking whether the network user
3 wishes to wait if the localized printer is unavailable.
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